

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 306

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic
name *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924 (Class Cephalopoda,
Order Ammonoidea)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 306

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*).

President : (Vacant).

Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*).

Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*).

B. The Members of the Commission

(*arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*).

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (28th March 1944).

Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*) (1st January 1947).

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Békéscsaba, Hungary*) (1st January 1947).

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Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948)

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948)

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

OPINION 306

VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "ARISPINCTES" BUCKMAN, 1924 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, the generic name *Toxosphinctes* Buckman, 1923, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 750 : *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924 (gender : masculine) (type species, by original designation : *Arisphinctes ariprepes* Buckman, 1924) (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 170 : *cotovui* Simionescu, 1907, as published in the combination *Perisphinctes cotovui*.

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 158 : *Toxosphinctes* Buckman, 1923, as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) above.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 21st January 1949 Dr. W. J. Arkell (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*) submitted an application for the protection under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924, as against the name *Toxosphinctes* Buckman, 1923 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea). The problem involved in this case was the subject of correspondence between the Secretary and Dr. Arkell in 1949 and 1950, but

by 10th December 1950 all outstanding questions had been settled and the following definitive application was submitted to the Commission :—

Proposed validation of the name “ *Arisphinctes* ” Buckman, 1924, by the suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the name “ *Toxosphinctes* ” Buckman, 1923 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) (Jurassic)

By W. J. ARKELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.
(*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*)

1. The present application is concerned with the relative precedence to be accorded to the generic names *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924, and *Toxosphinctes* Buckman, 1923 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) (Jurassic). This case was fully discussed by me in 1939 in “ A Monograph on the Ammonites of the English Corallian Beds ” (Palaeont. Society) (Part 5 : lv-lvii). The relevant facts are as follows.

2. S. Buckman published the name *Arisphinctes* (1924, *Type Ammonites* 5 : 33, pls. dxi, dxii) for a genus of large Perisphinctids of Upper Oxfordian date, characterised by ribbing that gradually modifies on the outer whorl and fades on the venter and by sutures with a long suspensive lobe. Buckman designated *Arisphinctes ariprepes* Buckman 1924 (*loc. cit.* : pl. dxi) as the type species of this genus. He also figured the holotype of this species which was a complete and well preserved specimen.

3. *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924, is now regarded (Arkell, 1939 : lvi-lvii) as a subgenus of the genus *Perisphinctes* Waagen, 1869. Further, the nominal species *Arisphinctes ariprepes* Buckman, 1924, is now identified with the nominal species *Perisphinctes cotovui* Simionescu, 1907 (: 151, pl. vii, fig. 1). Accordingly the trivial name *ariprepes* Buckman is now treated as a subjective junior synonym of the trivial name *cotovui* Simionescu.

4. In 1923 (the year before that in which the name *Arisphinctes* was published), Buckman had published another generic name *Toxosphinctes* (*Type Ammonites* 5 : pl. cdxlvii) ; the genus so named was based upon a single specimen, the re-discovered holotype of *Ammonites pickeringius* Young and Bird, 1822 (: 251, pl. xii, fig. 9), which is therefore the type species of *Toxosphinctes*. The holotype of this species, which was refigured by Buckman, shows characters quite different from those of *Arisphinctes* ; it has fine sharp ribbing all over, not modified, not faded on the venter, and suture with short suspensive lobe. Buckman evidently did not suspect any close affinity with *Arisphinctes*. The

species which are the respective type species of these two genera came from different parts of England but from the same zone.

5. When the Corallian ammonites came to be monographed and all available material was compared, it was discovered that the holotype of the type species of *Toxosphinctes* was an incomplete specimen, probably representing only the inner and middle whorls of a large species which later acquires the characters of *Arisphinctes*. *Perisphinctes pickeringius* (Young and Bird, 1822) as interpreted in the monograph cited above, is closely allied to *Perisphinctes* (*Arisphinctes*) *cotovui* Simionescu, 1907, the type species of *Arisphinctes*.

6. Since the specimen upon which Buckman founded the genus *Toxosphinctes* is incomplete and there are several subgenera with similar inner and middle whorls which cannot be distinguished from one another, except by the outer whorls, it can never be proved that this specimen belongs to a species having the same characteristics as *Arisphinctes*. It will always remain an uncertain factor, liable to re-interpretation by subsequent authors.

7. On the other hand, although the name *Arisphinctes* was published a few months later than *Toxosphinctes*, the genus *Arisphinctes* was founded upon a complete specimen and in consequence the characters of the type species of this genus can never be in doubt. In my monograph, therefore, I discarded (: lvi *et seq.*) the name *Toxosphinctes* and used the name *Arisphinctes*. In the twelve years which have since elapsed, no published dissent from this procedure has come to my notice nor has any dissent been received by me in correspondence.

8. Accordingly, in order to secure that the currently used generic name *Arisphinctes* shall be secure from possible supersession merely on grounds of priority by the *nomen dubium* *Toxosphinctes* (which never to my knowledge has been used in print since it was first published in 1923) and to prevent the confusion and inconvenience which an unnecessary change of this kind would involve, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to stabilise the generic nomenclature of this group and, having done so, to place the name *Arisphinctes* on the *Official List*. The specific proposals which I therefore submit are that the Commission should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Toxosphinctes* Buckman, 1923, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) place the generic name *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924 (type species, by original designation : *Arisphinctes ariprepes* Buckman, 1924) (gender of generic name : masculine) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

- (3) place the trivial name *cotovui* Simionescu, 1907, as published in the binominal combination *Perisphinctes cotovui*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) place the generic name *Toxosphinctes* Buckman, 1923 (as proposed, under (1) above, to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

References :

- Arkell, W. J., 1935—1948. *A Monograph on the Ammonites of the English Corallian Beds* (Palaeontograph. Soc.).
- Buckman, S. S., 1919—1930. *Type Ammonites*, vols. 3—7 (Thame).
- Simionescu, I., 1907. Studii geologice si pal. din Dobrogea, 1, Fauna cefalopodelor jurasice dela Harsova (Dobrogea). *Public. Fond. Adamachi Acad. Romana* 4 (21) : 151, pl. vii, fig. 1 (lectotype selected by Arkell, 1939, *loc. cit.* : 126).
- Young, G. and Bird, J., 1822. *A Geological Survey of the Yorkshire Coast*, 1st Edition. (Whitby).

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application* : Upon the receipt of Dr. Arkell's preliminary communication of 21st January 1949, the problem involved in connection with the name *Arisphinctes* Buckman, 1924, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 389.

3. *Publication of the present application* : The present application was sent to the printer immediately after its terms had been finally settled in December 1950 and it was published on 4th May 1951 in Triple-Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Arkell, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 214—216).

4. *Issue of Public Notices* : Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological

Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 4th May 1951, both in Triple-Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the Part in which Dr. Arkell's application was published, and also to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Public Notice was given to certain palaeontological serial publications in Europe and America. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed during the prescribed period but after the close of that period the objection reproduced in the immediately following paragraph was received in the Office of the Commission.

5. *Objection received from the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America* : On 9th April 1952 there was received a large number of letters commenting on various applications previously published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* from Professor G. Winston Sinclair (then of the *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*), Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America. Included among these was a letter reporting that six members of the Joint Committee were opposed to the present proposal as against four who were in favour of it. The foregoing letter was dated 6th February 1952, and its late receipt was apparently due to a decision to defer the despatch to the Commission of the letters containing comments by members of the Joint Committee until all the letters in question had been prepared. By the date on which this letter was received, the Prescribed Period of Public Notice had expired and the Voting Paper (V.P.(52)25) relating to this case had been prepared. It was therefore impossible to include in that Voting Paper a reference to Professor Sinclair's letter, but, when the Voting Paper was despatched (24th April) a supplementary sheet containing the particulars furnished by Professor Sinclair was issued to the Members of the Commission, who were thus placed in possession of the views of the members of the Joint Committee at the same time that they received the Voting Paper relating to the present case. The following is the text of Professor Sinclair's letter :—

The Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America has considered this subject, and I wish to inform you

that, being polled, they voted : To support the petition (four) :— (1) Bryan Patterson ; (2) John B. Reeside, Jr. ; (3) Bobb Schaeffer ; (4) R. C. Moore. To oppose the petition (six) :—(1) Katherine V. W. Palmer ; (2) A. Myra Keen ; (3) Don L. Frizzell ; (4) Siemon W. Muller ; (5) John W. Wells ; (6) G. Winston Sinclair.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. *Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)25* : On 24th April 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)25) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal "relating to the names *Arisphinctes* and *Toxosphinctes*, as specified in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 8 on page 215 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* [*i.e.*, paragraph 8 in the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. *The Prescribed Voting Period* : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 24th July 1952.

8. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)25* : The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)25 at the close of the Prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following fifteen (15) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)* :

Calman ; Hering ; Dymond ; Esaki ; do Amaral ; Hankó ; Bonnet ; Lemche ; Vokes ; Pearson ; Bradley ; Boschma ; Mertens ; Hemming ; Riley ;

(b) *Negative Votes had been given by two (2) Commissioners* :

Cabrera ; Stoll ;

(c) *Voting Paper not returned, one (1) :*

Jaczewski.

9. *Declaration of Result of Vote :* On 25th July 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)25, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. On 21st March 1954 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present Opinion and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)25.

11. The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Arisphinctes Buckman, 1924, *Type Ammonites* 5 : 33, pl. dxi
cotovui, *Perisphinctes*, Simionescu, 1907, *Public. Fond. Adamach. Acad. Romana* 4 (21) : 151, pl. vii, fig. 1 (lectotype selected by Arkell (1939, *Monogr. Ammonites Engl. Corall. Beds* (Pal. Soc.) : 126)

Toxosphinctes Buckman, 1923, *Type Ammonites* 5 : pl. cdxlvii

12. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and

invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as Opinion Three Hundred and Six (306) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-First day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING